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### Ogres and Victims.

Anti-Trust planks, ready-made or out to measure, are now necessary in all political platforms. To us the spring fashions in these articles look much alike, and only here and there a little individuality appears. and very welcome it is. "Pray consider everything and everybody to be damned and let us proceed to business," said STONEY SMITH to the profane nobleman. "Pray consider the Trusts to be denounced and get down to business," we might eay to the platform makers. The inherent depravity of the Octopus is taken for granted. For platform purposes there is no good in him.

But the Michigan Democratic platform holds that crime degrades the sufferer from it as well as the doer of it. Kindly notice with due gravity the words which we smarten with italies:

"The economic advantages of industrial combina tions are entirely lost to the people and swell the profits of arrogant and conscienceless magnates who leed on the reprehensible indifference of their rictims.

It is a fact that while the platforms creak and many of the politicians pretend to be blue with fear and horror of the Trusts, the public, busy in making money and enjoying itself, grins amiably at the monsters and is not in the least frightened by them unless it holds stock of some of the shaky ones among them. Sentimental Sociologists and friends of humanity and public characters with nothing to do but to drum up grievances and remedy them and candidates trying to find something safe to stand on are deeply pained by the Trusts. Dollar diners eat in the fear of them. There is a pile of conferring and concussing about them. No good Bryanite lets slip a chance to shriek and catterwaul against them. An ingenuous foreigner, ignorant of the facts, might judge from speeches and platforms and newspaper articles that, as a result of the Trusts, the economic condition of the country was a little worse than it would be if the Black Death, the Thirty Years' War and the panies of 1837, 1857, 1873 and 1893 had visited it in company as a Scourge Trust. Yet the country is all right and the people, who are enduring at the hands of the Trusts the dire evils for which see any Democratic platform, are unconscious of the injury and reprehensibly indifferent to all the hullabaloo, the blue fire and the assafætida which the speeches, articles and platforms are pouring forth about the

So long as this state of reprehensible indifference and jovial well-being lasts, the war against Trusts will continue to be a mere picture on the billboards.

# The American-Mexican Boundary.

The vagaries of the Rio Grande are responsible for the long delay in determining the boundary between the United States and Mexico. The time allowed by treaty to complete the water boundary expired on Dec. 20 last. Secretary HAY and Senor Aspiros, on Saturday, signed a treaty extending the time for one year from the expiration of the time limit.

One morning over a quarter of a century ago the town of Mesilla woke up to find it self high and dry on the side of the river opposite that which it had occupied on the preceding evening. The river had simply changed its course during the night with out molesting the town. This occurred above the point where the Rio Grande is the boundary, and so Mesilla remains in New Mexico no matter where the river chooses to run. But the boundary question has been complicated in the lower valley by the fact that in time of flood the river every now and then makes new channels, some times cutting off a bend or leaving the old channel to join it again some miles below. Among the fields and villages on either side of the river are depressions showing where the stream formerly ran and through which

its waters may again make their way. It is more than half a century since the Mexican War closed, and this may seem to be a rather late day to be delimiting the boundary between the two countries. The western half of the frontier is not a natural boundary, such as the Rio Grande supplies, and it was surveyed and marked by monuments between 1849 and 1856, but the monuments were few in number and not of permanent materials. The present International Boundary Commission, appointed in 1891 resurveyed this part of the boundary and marked it with many monuments consisting of hollow iron posts filled with concrete. Soon the work along the Rio Grande will be completed and there will be no further cause for dispute as to the frontier of the two countries.

The Pettigrew Type of Patriotism. Among the volunteer troops sent to the Philippines during the war with Spain was the First South Dakota Regiment. This organization continued in the service some time after the term of enlistment had expired. Mr. McKINLEY met the regiment at Aberdeen on its return to this country.

of the Filipino insurrection, he said: "They did not stack arms. They did not run away. They were not serving the insurgents or their sympathigers at home. They had no part or patience with the men, few in number happly, who would have reloised to have seen them lay down their arms in the presence of an enemy whom they had just emancipated from Spanish rule and who should have been their

This compliment must have perturbed the spirit of Mr. RICHARD F. PRITIGREW. one of the Senators of the United States from South Dakota. He has kept it in mind ever since it was uttered and he evidently remembers it with resentment, for on Wednesday and Thursday he took up a part that the President had misrepresented the sentiments of the South Dakota troops.

In this praiseworthy effort Senator Petti-GREW read a series of letters from his con- it stituents which present an amazing picture | of on the part of the writers, many of whom

by the hardships which they had experienced in the Philippines. No man who cared for the good name of his State would willingly make public these hysterical outbursts, yet the South Dakota Senator rolled them as sweet morsels under his tongue.

'Not a word of truth in it." writes a private soldier to Mr. PETTIGREW, speaking of the President's statement that the regiment wanted to remain in the Philippines until other troops could take their place. A Captain calls the President's declaration" a fairy tale." and adds: "We did not enlist to remain in the Philippines and fight niggers in the jungles." Another private complains that "OTIS makes the volunteers do all the fighting and leaves the regulars stay in Manila, so they will not be shot," and this charge is reiterated by many of the Senator's correspondents in various forms. A typical letter is that of a sergeant, who wrote thus to Mr. Petrigrew, only a few weeks ago:

"Many attrac I wished since I came home that I had gone to Aberdeen, where the President welcomed the regiment, to have been present when he made certain statements in connection with the great patriotism of the First South Dakota Regiment in so far as they were willing to stay on the tslands after their time had expired. I would liked to have asked him who the d-d fool was that sent such a lie. I think the Administration would put the old granny of Gen. Orisin a bad hole if it should demand an investigation."

The decent men in the First South Dakota Volunteers must be pleased at the attempt of their Senator to show that they were not so patriotic as they had been painted.

A notable contrast is afforded by the conduct of Senator HANSBROUGH of North Dakota. In the discussion to which we have referred he pointed out that the North Dakota regiment and the South Dakota regiment which served in the Philippines were made up of about the same class of material men from the shops and the stores and the farms-vet he declared that he had never heard from the mouth of any member of the North Dakota regiment a single complaint or a single regret that they were in service in the Philippines. Senator Hans-BROUGH concluded his protest with this statement:

"Mr. President, the North Dakota regiment was composed of Democrats and Populists as well as Republicans. On their return home I was at several recentions which were given to those troops; and recall that Major FRANE, one of the officers of the regiment, made a speech at one of the receptions. Major FRANE was a Democrat. In the speech that he made at this meeting he indorsed the action of the Administration with respect to the conduct of the war, and said that even if he had the work to do over again he would be found in the ranks on his way to the Philippines as before."

But this soldier was not a patriot of the Pettigrew stamp. For the good repute of South Dakota we hope the Senator does not really represent the spirit of his constituents by and large.

#### Canadian Commissions in the British Army.

The dispute about the terms on which the Dominion may be more closely connected with Great Britain is suspended for the moment, and Canadian newspapers are discussing the principle upon which the commissions in the Imperial Army offered to Canadians shall be awarded. The representatives of the Liberal Government, now in power at Ottawa, hold that the commissions should be distributed by the Governor General in Council-that is to say, in compliance with the advice of the Minister of Militia. The Conservatives, on their part, maintain that the commissions form no part of the spoils pertaining to the preponderant party, but that, as the recipients will be officers, not of the Canadian Militia. but of the Imperial Army, they should be chosen by the Governor General exclusively in his capacity of representative of the British Crown and on the advice of a nonpartisan board of examiners.

The correspondence on the subject which has taken place between the British Government and the Government of the Dominion was submitted last week to the Ottawa House of Commons. The home authorities originally proposed that the allotment of the new commissions offered should be made by the Imperial officer commanding the Canadian forces. The Dominion Government replied that the General commanding the Canadian forces was an officer appointed by the Government of Canada, and was subordinate to the Minister of Militia: consequently, if the Dominion Government was to be regarded as responsible for the appointments these must be made in the usual way, to wit, by the Governor General on the advice of his Ministers. The Constitutional position thus taken was not impugned by Mr. CHAMBER-LAIN in so many words. Nevertheless, his original proposal was only slightly modified. The Secretary for the Colonies said that the candidates for the commissions should be designated by the Governor General "after consulting with his Ministers and Imperial officers," and lists of candidates should be submitted to Lord Minto through the Ministers with their recommendations, but nevertheless "the responsibility for final

selection should remain with the Governor General. The response made to this suggestion by the Canadian Ministers was, according to the Toronto Globe, the only one constitutionally possible. It was admitted that the appointments would be Imperial appointments, and that the Imperial authorities would be at liberty to adopt any course they hose in order to satisfy themselves of the omparative fitness of candidates. Should they prefer to act on the personal advice of the Governor General no one could gainsay them. Should they, on the other hand, desire the advice of the Canadian Ministers that advice must be given in the regular Constitutional way; the final responsibility must rest with the Ministers, who would be liable to be called to account for it by the representatives of the people of Canada in Parliament. The correspondence closed with an appeal on the part and in a speech commending the officers of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN to the Canadian and men for their conduct at the outbreak Ministers to try a middle course, at present unknown to the Constitution either of Great Britain or of the Deminion. That is to say, the Canadian Ministers and Imperial officers" were to make recommendations

himself The Globe avers that Sir WILFEID LAU-RIER and his colleagues will scarcely be is hard in Prussia. He no longer has the right accused of a too strict adherence to Constitutional usage if they decline to adopt Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S via media. It points out that the Constitution of the Dominion knows no such thing as an act of Govern- ing official papers. That, of course, is a mon of the day in the Senate in trying to show ment other than an act done on the advice strosity with no philological or ethnological of responsible Ministers. The Crown, represented by the Governor General, has no independent authority in governing; is recognized simply as the head the State, guiding the Government of vulgarity, profanity and demoralization of the country as it is advised by the Min- this sentence he appealed to the provincial

not to be bound to follow their advice, the

final responsibility resting exclusively with

seem to have been temporarily overcome | LAURIER and his colleagues chose to take part in the experiment proposed by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN they would not be acting as Ministers of the Crown at all; and they could not be held responsible to Parliament for appointments over which they did not possess the final control. To make up lists of names, any one or all of which could be rejected by the Governor General, might be an occupation acceptable to gentlemen of leisure, but would hardly be suitable for responsible Ministers having serious duties to perform. The Globe concludes that either the Ministers ought not to be consulted at all as to the award of the commissions or they ought to be consulted in accordance with the Constitution of the Dominion.

.As we have said, the spokesmen of the

Conservative party take a different view of the affair. Thus, the Mail and Empire of Toronto, in an article on "The Army Commissions Scandal," asserts that, in the correspondence above outlined, Sir WILPRID LAURIER was prompted solely by a desire to gain control of the commissions allotted to Canadians, so as to distribute them among his political supporters. The British Government, on the other hand, desired to prevent the distribution of commissions on political grounds; it wanted military recommendations; and, to that end, suggested the designation of a board of officers which should make selections on the merit principle. According to the Mail and Empire, the proposal not only commends itself to common sense, but is constitutionally sound. If the Imperial Government had been proposing to make appointments to any Canadian service. Sir WILFRID LAURIER would have been right in insisting that the Ottawa Government should name the appointees. As a matter of fact, however, the Imperial Government was making appointments to its own service, and, responsible as it is for its own business, it was justified in adopting its own means for the choice of its own officers. "What would we say," asks the Mail and Empire, "if the Imperial Government were to declare that every English-born citizen entering the Canadian Mounted Police, for which we pay, should be selected, not as we think proper but by Downing Street?" The demand of Ottawa for the right to name the Canadians who are to hold commissions in the British Army was not based upon any principle of responsible government. Ottawa does not control the British Army. The Ottawa Government is no more responsible for the officering of the British Army than it is for the employment of Canadians for any service outside of the public service of Canada. According to the Mail and Empire, finally, the demand that the commissions offered to Canadians should be distributed by the Ministers of the Dominion was "a straight grab for patronage," and the fact that the Imperial authorities resisted it is accepted as a proof of good will on the part of British Ministers toward Canadians, irrespective

of party. It is a very pretty quarrel as it stands, but the Canadian Premier seems to have the whip-hand in the matter, for, if Mr. CHAM-BERLAIN refuses to accept his views of the Constitutional question alleged by Sir Wu-FRID to be involved, the latter may object to the entrance of Canadians into the Imperial service.

## Speedway Park.

Possibly three million people in New York have not been to Speedway Park. They are lucky in being able to atone to themselves for their failure. It is a park or a thoroughfare of unique charm. For early three miles it goes northward with a rocky and wooded slope possessing the beauty of the wilderness rising high above it on one hand, and on the other the Harlem River with its varied life and interesting slope on the further side. The parkway passes under two most majestic bridges, so that with the banks of the valley, the river, the bridges and the immense road itself, perfectly adapted to its purpose and admirably kept, Speedway Park has an air of breadth and artistic per-

fection that makes it a delight to visit. The great charm of the Harlem's west bank, commercially useless because of its conformation, could never have been made enjoyable by the public on the scale that is now is in any other form than that of the Speedway. No park in New York of equal attractiveness and public benefit has approached the Speedway in the cheapness of ts cost.

So much for the Speedway Park as a park t has horses on it also. They provide a world of public entertainment, and friendly acknowledgment for much pleasure given is due to the men who crowd it with highpriced flyers, notwithstanding the drivers get the full of their money's worth in their individual fun with the reins.

New York city is beginning to suffer the pangs of poverty in finding that its expenditures have been so great that no more can be incurred. Costly improvements must be foregone for some time to come.

Most of the dissatisfaction at this state of affairs seems to be vented on the Davis law for schoolteachers' salaries. Poor law! It is only a tenth part as guilty as the rapid transit scheme, and for its faults as a law it cannot justly be made to bear the entire odium of the city's straightened circumstances.

The Hon. SAM GOMPERS, who spends a good deal of his valuable time in telling Congress what laws to make, is now in this town enjoining injunctions and overruling courts. Hon Sam Gompers is ready to become the whole Government at any time.

New York fishermen and dealers declare that he present run of shad is the best known for nany years past. The Pudson abounds fish, and big catches have been general, and a similar unusual abundance of Southern and Deiaware River shad has marked the season, now at its height and very soon to close. The fish has been excellent, too, and cheap, and its popularity in New York has not been diminished by the abundance.

If Col. BEYAN wants a New York partner where can he find a truer Bryanite than it Syracuse? The Hon. JOHN MCCARTHY, the celebrated Democratic statesman and funeral director of that town, is the most rapid-firing to the Governor General, but the latter was silver gun in the New York Democracy. BEYAN and McCarray would be a ticket to fill the Democratic bosom with joy,

The way of the backslider from Germanish to spell his name as he pleases. A young soldier from Posen in Prussian Poland, now serving at Stettin, whose parents bore the name of SCHULZ, not uncommon in Germany, formed the deplorable habit of writing it Szulc in signexcuse, but he insisted that he was a Pole, and that in Polish Szulc is the way to write the name which is pronounced shootts. He was hauled up before the district court, the Schiffengericht, and fined 150 marks for changing his family name without legal authorization. From isters of the day. If, therefore, Sir WILPRID | criminal court, the Stratgericht, on the ground

of precedents in his favor in the civil courts, THE EPHESUS LETTER OF JESUS. but the appeal was rejected for the reason that a change in the spelling of a name might make it difficult to ascertain the bearer's identity, Szule or Schulz thereupon appealed to the civil appeal court of the province, the Kammergericht A change in Judges was made at the beginning of the year, and the new bench not only disallowed the appeal, but reversed such decisions of its predecessors as might have been in the appellant's favor. It is now illegal in Prussia for a SCHULZ to write himself down

The Money Devils are having another conspiracy. The New Orleans Times-Democrat has smoked them out. They are raising wages for iniquitous political purposes. The corporations and the Republicans have an understanding, and wages will be raised "two or three times week during the months of September and October, for certain, and perhaps also of July and August." Indeed the scoundrels are at it already and have been for some time. This nefarious scheme should be treated with proper heat in the Kansas City convention. A pretty pass the country has come to if the vampire corporations and werewolf combinations are to increase the pay of the producing classes without their consent. No wonder the Hon. JOHN PARDON ALTGELD has the crisis.

#### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Of the 128 miles between Bloemfontein and Kroonstad Lord Roberts has covered about half without serious fighting, the Boers falling back all along the line. It does not seem probable that any stand will be made south of the Zand River, beyond which the country becomes broken and hilly, with long ridges affording good defensive positions. The principal points where fighting may be expected are about Ventersburg and Senekal, the latter on the road from Winburg to Bethlehem. The line of country between Ventersburg through Senekal to Ficksburg on the Basuto border is rough and until cleared of the Boers an advance from Natal through the Drakensberg passes cannot be made except after stiff fighting. The work so far appears to have fallen principally on the cavalry and mounted infantry, the country being favorable to their employment. Gen. Methuen is reported to have made a diversion beyond Boshof and found a Boer force which moved off. The most threatening move, how ever, on Lord Roberts's left is that across the Vaai toward Taungs and Vryburg, but it is in the advance of the main body under his immediate command that all the interest of the campaign now centres.

Cape Nome Beach Claims. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In re communication in Saturday's SUN signed John Patterson concerning beach claims at Cape Nome and certain parties in New York representing that they own such claims and can sell them, or stock in them, permit me to say that "parties" I refer to are not Mr. Patterson and the company he represents. I never heard of Mr. Patterson or his company, and I am now sorry to do so, because I had hoped there was not more than one of the kind complained of, I have no desire to enter into any controversy on the subject of rights in beach claims at Cape Nome, nor had I anything to offer of my own in my previous communication. I quoted a letter received from the Commis of the Land Office at World Process. of the Land Office at Washington, and if he does not know what he is talking about it is not my fault. At the same time I would respectmy fault. At the same time I would respond fully request all prospective purchasers of so-called Cape Nome beach claims to read that letter before putting up a great deal of money.

Pro Bono Publico.

## Reception to the Boer Delegates.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In this morning's SUN there is a communication signed "Seventy-Six" suggesting a public welcome to the Boer's Peace Commission This hits the nail on the The sympathy of the real people of this coun try is with the brave little Republic struggling against fearful odds for its independence Forge is near here, and I think of Washington's dark days and of the ragged Continentals. Without France's aid we could not have won. Shall we not make known to Great Britain where our sympathies are? If we let her know that she has the moral at tagonism of the whole world in her unholy war it

Let the Boer commission have a reception such as cossuth had when he pleaded the cause of freedom. PHILADELPHIA, May 6 FAIR PLAY

# An Open Letter to Presidents Kruger and

Steyn, Through "The Sun. If in the near future it becomes evident that a civil ized and brave people, numerically weak and fighting for liberty, will be crushed and annihilated by over whelming numbers, would it not be wise and prudent to give up a hopeless struggle and turn your backs to country which, owing to its inherent riches will nevermore offer to a plain and God-fearing people the conditions for undisturbed life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and trek once more and for the last time to the "land of the free and the home of the brave, as did many of your ancestors centuries ago. The American people would welcome you with open arms as a worthy element in our composite body of free

# The Happiest Person.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Who is the happlest human being in the world? I contend that t is a young girl of 16 or thereabouts in good healt. spirits and circumstances. My next friend says a oy is just as happy, and I say he is not, because a boy's future is so different from a girl's that its esponsibilities cast a shadow that does not come into the girl's life. When a boy leaves his boyhood for his manhood it means hard work of body and mind. When a girl leaves her girlhood for womanhood. means love and marriage, and there is always to that the glamour which shows only the rose color and the romance with never a shadow in all the world. Am I not right? HARLEM.

# Our British Yacht Skippers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIF: You ask why British yachtsmen are given the preference over Americans. That is easy! The Britisher is trained to strict and immediate obedience and uniform courtesy of manner: the average American in my experience a pretty wide one) is filled with "I'm as good as you doctrine, is uncourteous, taking orders witho I am not a Britisher, but an American, born and

reated in Ohio, where my home for eight months in the year still is.

#### Where is the "Lady Washington" Hand Engine?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SU of Saturday last was a despatch from Stamford say ing that the old hand engine named "Lady Washing ton." formerly belonging to the volunteer company n Morrisania, had been found in Stamford and would be sent back to the Morrisania company. This leads me to think that this village has the original "Lady Washington" hand engine. In 1856 or thereabouts our village purchased in New York a hand engine that bore the name "Lady Washington," and does to day, though retired from service.

What makes me strong in belief is the fact that on the engine was painted the word "Morrisanta." and is a tradition that the old engine came from that soint. Evidently it was in the nands of a company of some wealth by the decorations and painting between upon it. There is a fine oil painting on the mest of the tower that supported the "goose-neck" and the number "1" and name are on silver plated blates. If not the original, it certainty has a history hat is connected with the early days of the old New ork volunteer fire department, and might prove very neteresting if traced out.

# Protection for Speedway Flowers

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Is there any protection afforded to the trees, flowering and therwise, growing along the Speedway? If there is it is evidently not the province of policemen to furnish because on Saturday I saw hundreds of people men, women and children-gathering whole armfuls of dogwood and other blossoms along the way and the police looking upon it with a kindly, almos fatherly, eye. Whether any provision has been made looking to the care of trees and plants along the Speed-way. I do not know, but if there has not been, there should be, for when hundreds of people are allowed to carry off branches and limbs and blossoms by the Carry oil branches and limbs and blossoms by the armful, it will not be long until the young and growing trees will be exterminated. Can't Supt. Quinn have a few signs put up warning people to let the trees keep their blossoms for the purpose nature intended them? And can't he instruct his Speedway police to see to it that the law of the signboard be enforced? ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE.

Well-Known Letter to King Abgar of Edessa, of Which an Inscription Was Said to Be Recently Discovered. Pronounced

Unauthentic a Thousand Years Ago. The theological world has been much interested in the report which came from Rome that at a recent archaeological meeting held in that city Prof. Bohrmann of Vienna read a paper upon a Greek inscription which has been found in the remains of the great palace of Ephesus in Asia Minor. This report has been excellent food for all sorts of writers, and the most surprising statements have gone the rounds of the press.

There seems no valid reason to doubt that the inscription dates from the time of the fifth cen-The statement of Mr. Murray of the British Museum may well be relied upon. But this does not by any means prove that the documents are what they purport to be. It is natural that in Rome the wish should be father to the thought, and any evidence be accepted which deals with the early history of the Church without much questioning as to its scientific value. It was only last year that an Eastern Patriarch living in Rome, Ignatius Ephraemii Rahmani, published a series of Church statutes which he had found in an old Syriac manuscript and which he believed had come down to us from the time of the Aposties themselves. Scholars soon saw that the document did not antedate the fifth or sixth century

The cabled report tells us that the inscription is, composed in Doric Greek and contains the correspondence which is supposed to have passed between Jesus and a certain Abgar, King of Edessa. There is no reason to doubt that the inscription is in Greek. That is what one would expect to find in Ephesus. One can doubt whether the Doric dialect of the Greek was still used at the time in Ephesus; but that is of minor importance. Every scholar will concede that we have here translations only of the supposed correspondence. Abgar would have written in Syriac or in Aramean. Jesus would have answered in Aramaean, or, perhaps, the scribe would have translated the answer into Syriac. These letters were current all over the Eastern Church. We have versions of them in Syriac, Greek, Latin, Armenian, Arabic loptic, etc. The question is, however, whether we have any warrant for supposing the letters to be genuine.

The facts are these: There existed in north western Mesopotamia a little kingdom called Osrhoene, bounded on the west by the Euphrates, on the north by the Armenian mountains, on the east by Nisibis and on the south by the Great Desert. Its chief city was Edessa It must have been a place of some importance as the small state was able to uphold its independence from about 182 B. C. to 242 A. D. Before one of its Kings accepted Christianity as the State religion Edessa was a stronghold of paganism. The ponds are still to be seen in which the sacred fish were worshipped; and these ponds are still held, in veneration by the Mohammedans, though they believe that they were laid out by Abraham. In addition to the fish, the sun, moon and stars were objects of worship Later on Edessa became a great centre of Christian influence. One of the earliest and strongest churches was founded here. The city was intimately connected with the Syriac Christian Church during its most flourishing period. It was here that some of the great Fathers lived and where earl Christian science had a home. The beginnings of Christianity in Edessa are thus related by the Church historian, Eusebius, of the fourth century When the divine nature of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ was published abroad among all men by reason of the wonderfu mighty works which He wrought, and myriads, even from countries remote from the land o Judea, who were afflicted with sicknesses and

diseases of every kind were coming to Him in the hope of being healed, King Abgar also, who was renowned for his valor among the nations on the east side of the Euphrates, had his body afflicted with a severe disease of such a kind as there is no cure for it among men. . . . He therefore] sent to Jesus a letter of request b the hand of a man of his own and entreated Him to come and heal him of his disease. Our Saviour, however, at the time that he called Him did worthy of a reply. \* \* \* You have in written documents the evidence of these things, which s taken from the Book of Records, which is at Edessa; for, at that time, the Kingdom was still standing. \* \* \* \* Copy of the letter which was written from King Abgar to Jesus and sent to Him by the hand of Hananias the Tabularius o Jerusalem: Abgar Ikkama, Chief of the country, to Jesus, the good deliverer, who has appeared in the Country of Jerusalem, Peace. I have heard about Thee, and about the cures which are wrought by Thy hands, without medicine and herbs: for, as it is reported, Thou makest the blind to see and the lame to walk and Thou cleansest the lepers and Thou castes out unclean spirits and devils and Thou healest those who are tormented with lingering diseases and Thou ruisest the dead. And, when I heard these things about Thee, I settled in my mind one of two things. Either Thou art God. Who. being come down from Heaven, doest these things, or that Thou art the Son of God and doest these things. On this account, therefore, have written to request of Thee that Thou wouldst trouble Thyself to come to me and cure this disease which I have, for I have also heard that the Jews murmur against Thee and wish to do Thee harm. But I have a city, small and beautiful, which is enough for two.' Copy of those things which were written from Jesus by the hand of Hananias the Tabularius to Abgar, the Chief of the Country: 'Blessed is he that hath believed in Me, not having seen Me, and these who have not seen Me, they will believe and be saved. But touching what thou hast written to Me, that I should come to thee, it is meet that I should fulfil here everything for the sake of which I have been sent, and

after I have fulfilled it then I shall be taken up to Him that sent Me; and when I have been taken up I will send to thee one of My disciples, that he may heal thy disease, and give salva tion to thee and to those who are with thee." Eusebius then relates how Thaddaus, one of the seventy, was sent to King Abgar and through him Christianity was established in Edessa. Unfortunately, there were no less than eleven Kings of Edessa who bore the name Abgar Abgar V , son of Manu, is the Abgar Ukkama of the legend. He reigned from 4 B. C. up to 7 A. D. But the father of Abgar IX was also called Manu, and he reigned from 179-214 A. D. The late Prof. von Gutschmid has made it plain that Christianity was intro duced into Edessa under Abgar IX. The coins previous to the reign of this King all bear th igures of the moon and the stars, referring undoubtedly to the stellar worship of pre-Christian Edessa The Syriae Chronicle of the city which has come down to us in part spenks of the great inundation which did so much

damage to Edessa in 201 and mentions the Christian Church in a way which shows that the city was not yet officially Christian. In the year 202 Abgar IX. paid a visit to Rome, and it was after this visit that he embraced Christianity The reason for the confusion of the two Al gars is quite evident. As Syrian Christianity grew strong there it was natural to think that he Church had been officially established there by one of the seventy. The legend must have grown up during the third centuries. The very old "Doctrine of Addai," which was written in Syriac in Edessa itself during the fourth century, has come down to us in manuscripts of the fifth and sixth century. In the sixth cen tury it passed on to armenia, and is found in the Armenian historian Moses of Chorene teighth century). The apocryphal character of the letters was recognized at an early date Augustine and St. Jerome state distinctly that Jesus left no written document, and Pope Gelasius, together with the Roman Synod of 495, expressly declared against the genuineness of the letter to Abgar. That Eusebius found the documents in the archives, of Edessa is quite possible. A whole century is sufficient ime for such a legend to grow up and be re-

duced to writing. It is, therefore, quite possi-

and its occurrence in an inscription there of the

fifth century proves nothing as to the truth

ble that the legend found its way to Ephesus

of the story, all newspaper headings to the contrary

But what has this correspondence to do with the palace of Ephesus, and how did it come to be inscribed above the doorway? The answer is not hard to find. Even after it had found its way into the archives of Edessa the legend continued to grow. In course of time there came to be added to it a special benediction for the city of Edessa, the story of the portrait of Jesus, of the finding of the true cross and the letter of Abgar to Tiberius. It is the first of these additions which is of interest to us in this connection. Eusebius knows nothing at al about it; but the "Doctrine of Addai" adds at the end of the letter of Jesus these words, "Thy city shall be blessed, and no enemy shall again become master of it forever." A certain magical power was believed to reside in these words, which kept the enemy off from walls upon which the promise was engraven. The addition was probably made during the

fourth century. The plous pilgrim St. Silvia

In her voyage to the sacred spots visited Edessa

toward the end of the fourth century and re ceived from the priest of the place the letters which had passed between Abgar and Jesus. The letter of Jesus already contained the famous words, for the priest told her that shortly after the letter had arrived in Edessa the city had been besieged by the Persians Abgar went to the gate of the city, opened the letter there and invoked the assistance of Jesus Immediately a thick darkness covered the place. In the year 502 the Persians again besieged Edessa. The Syriac "Chronicle of Joshua the Stylite" (506 A. D.) says: "On the 17th of this month, which was Wednesday, we saw the words of Christ and His promise to Abgar really fulfilled. For Kawad (the Persian King) collected his whole force, and marched from the river Euphrates, and came and encamped against Edessa. • • • The gates of the city were all standing open, but the Persians were unable to enter it because of the blessing of Christ. On the contrary, fear fell upon them, and they remained at their posts no one fighting with them, from morning till toward the ninth hour." The Greek historian s more precise even. He says: "The end of the letter containing the benediction is not known to the authors who wrote the history of these times but the Edessians pretend that the benediction was really in the letter. They herefore place this letter before the gates of he city as a sort of a palladium, having no mind for any other manner of defence. In order, to prove the truth of this Choeroes laid siege to Edessa; but he was so grievously wounded in the face that he was compelled to retire ignominiously." What was done at Edessa was probably also done at Ephesus, and the appearance of the letter in the inscription against invasion.

above the gate of the city clearly shows that it was intended in this way to guard the city In fact, the letter was evidently used by private people as a sort of amulet. The pilgrim Saint Silvia gets a copy for the purpose of warding off all danger on her perilous journey. We have another interesting instance of its use for this purpose. Some twenty years ago a large find of papyri was made in that part of Egypt known as El-Fayyum, lying between the twenty-ninth and thirtieth degrees of north latitude. Greek, Coptic, Arabic, Syriac and Hebrew papyri were found in great numbers, and they have opened up a new period in our knowledge of the later history of Egypt. Among the Coptic writing two large fragments on parchment were found which contain almost the whole of the correspondence between Jesus and Abgar. They were to be worn as amulets. The fragments are now part of the collection belonging to Archduke Rainer of Vienna. In a Greek manuscript of the Vienna Royal Library there is a note following upon the copy of the letter of Jesus to the effect that if worn as an amulet it is a sure safeguard before a court of law in journeys on land or sea and against all sick-RICHARD GOTTHEIL

# The Question of the Bible Must First Be

Settled. rom a Report of a Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Bryan

in the Chicago Times-Herald. The Presby terian Church has held steadfastly to her creed for many years past and she will require of every comer that he show good ground for his proposals of change. And further still, we will ask whether this time be opportune for changes. It is scarce ten years since the Church was agitated from the Atlantic to the Pacific with this whole question, when Presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly were absorbed in the perplexing effort to agree upon certain changes. The result, as is well known, was failure, and men who differed widely then are agreed that now is not the opportune time to reopen the question.

A deeper question confronts the Church, one which must be settled before any real progress in doctrine can be made. That question is the question of the Bible. If the Bible be, as the Church has always believed, one consistent revelation from God, gradually unfolding the gospel of salvation from the beginning of the Old Testament to the end of the New Testament: if it contain for us all we may expect to know concerning God's will for our salvation; if it be infallibly inspired, divinely authoritative, then we may proceed to raise the question of its interpretation and ask what further progress awaits us in the development of doctrine. That deeper question is not yet settled, if we may believe our advanced school. There are spread abroad to-day views of Scripture which raise the question whether we have a body of truth in Scripture or merely a collection of religious opinion, and whether there is in Scripture such a unity as justifies our endeavors to reach it. These are preliminary questions, and until they are settled the Church will do well to rest content with that to which she is

already attained. It is recognized by candid scholars of the thoroughgoing critical school that there is but little in common between their ideas of Scripture and the historic bellef of the Church, and that their conception of truth is entirely different. Why attempt to plaster over these differences? What is the value of a creed that is the result of compromise between conflicting schools of thought? Let the issue be joined and the question of the Bible settled, and then the interpretation will be easy In this I believe that the leaders of the critical movement will frankly agree.

Foreigner's View on American Life Wine. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN Sir: Since my ast letter on the "Vice of Ice," published in THE SUN f May 4. I have gleaned a great deal more on the sabit of drinking feed water, and I truly hope my small endeavors to "show it up" may not fail on bar ren ground, more particularly because the hot season s fast approaching, when through the incautious use of leed drinks so many young lives may be imperilled y its intemperate use. The climates of Spain, Porugal, haly and South of France are surely warmer an even your summer in New York, and could not habits of these countries be imitated with ad as sign here as being the outcome of proof of cen

Well, what the inhabitants of those countries do in not weather is that they drink as little as possible, out what they drink is wine. That wine is very no ritious is clearly shown by the statistical returns of several wine-growing countries. I will cite one in When Portugal has an abundant full vintage the

importations of breadstuffs decrease to half the usually needful supply.

#### Cameras at the Zoo-Seats for Women in City Hall Park.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIL! It's all ight, I suppose, to keep up the grumbling about the hutting out of the amateur camera at the Bronx Zoo, and in the end there can be little doubt that the snap-shottists, and I am one of them, will get their rights, whatever they may be, but the grambling ertainly was begun too soon. The grounds and the exhibits are not yet in photographable condition, and will not be this year, and if it was my show I too, would object to having pictures taken by irresponsible

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE PROBLEMS. Defence of Our Coast and Islands the General

Subject of the Summer Course. WASHINGTON, May 7. Capt. C. H. Stockton, President of the Naval War College at Newport has prepared a memorandum of the course of nstruction for the current year which has been approved by the Navy Department. The course will begin on June 1, and will cover a period of three months. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Hackett, who has direct charge of the college, will deliver an opening address on

June 2 According to the proposed memorandum, the first week will be devoted to a series of lectures by Capt. Mahan of the Navy upon the art of war as demonstrated by Napoleon's early campaigns on land. The treatment of subjects connected with the main problem of the year will follow. This problem is one dealing with the defence of the northwest coast of the United States north of the Columbia River, and the protection of our insular possessions, Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines. The resources and strategical, topographical and hydrographical features of these consts and waters will be closely studied and the defence of the country planned against an attack by a strong naval power. The history of all previous naval operations in the area of this problem will be brought out.

erations in the area of this problem will be brought out.

Lectures will be given on naval strategy by Capt. Mahan, on coast defence by Capt. Goodrien andon naval tactics by Capt. Taylor. Part of the time of these lectures will be devoted to various tactical problems, and the working out by the improved war game of Kriegspiel, of strategical, practical and single-ship questions of combat.

Major Knight of the United States Engineers' School of Application, at Willets Point, N.Y., will deliver a lecture on submarine mines for harbor defence. Warfare by means of torpedo boats will be the subject of lectures by Lieut, Chandler of the Navy. There will also be lectures on maritime international law by; President Stockton, a part of which will be an explanation of the code of laws of war at sea.

The questions of the proper ships for the American Navy and the proper organization, mobilization and expansion of the Navy at the outbreak of war will be treated upon during the coming course. Surgeon Bayer of the Navy will lecture upon the subject of navy hygiene and the care of men in tropical climates, ashore and affoat. The sea power of the principal naval countries of the world will also be treated in a series of lectures by officers of the colleg-

## BIBLE CRITICS DENOUNCED.

Discussion of Briggsism by Long Island Methodist Preachers.

At a meeting of the Brooklyn and Long Island Methodist Preachers' Association held yesterday at Association Hall in Brooklyn, these offivers were elected for the ensuing year: The Rev. F. B. Stockdale, President, the Rev. C. S. Williams, Vice-President: the Rev. F. A. Scoffeld, Secretary and Treasurer; the Revs. J. H. Willey, O. F. Barthalow and George Adams, Business Committee. "Christ and the Scriptures" was the subject of a paper read by the by the subject of a paper read by the Dwight A. Jordan. He had this to

Rev. Dr. Dwight A. Jordan. He had this to say of the Bible critics:
"Dicussion of the Bible as literatutre may have some modicum of value for preachers' meetings, while as a species of ecclesiastical, mental gymnastics they may serve a minor purpose. The maximum effect is to make of some, perhaps many, not too well qualified men self-determining judges of what is really the word of God. In this way, they becloud the mind and weaken the faith of the great masses both in and out of the Church, till faith, never too strong, is practically paralyzed, and excuses are plentifully supplied for lax interpretations and loose deductions, which strike, at

excuses are plentfully supplied for lax inter-pretations and loose deductions, which strike, at the vitals of the whole Christian scheme." Many ministers indorsed Dr. Jordan's views. The Rev. Mr. Allen, a superannuated minister, came to the defence of the critics, saying: "I don't want to preach a lot of rubbish that ob-scures the Christ. I want to behold him in his glory, not in the rags of mediaval theology. The aged minister, on being called to account, explained that he believed in Jesus Christ with all his heart.

## COLUMBIA'S NEW TRUSTEES.

Francis Sedgewick Bangs and Benjamin Aylmar Sands Elected Yesterday.

The trustees of Columbia University elected yesterday Francis Sedgewick Bangs and Benjamin Aylmar Sands as trustees to fill the vacancies left by the deaths of Cornelius Vanderbilt and Frederic Bronson. Mr. Bangs graduated from Columbia College in 1878 and is a banker at 40 Wall street. Mr. Sands graduated from the college in 1874 and is a member of the real estate firm of Bowers and Sands at 54 Liberty street

A new professorship was established in the college in philosophy and Herbert G. Lord, A. M. principal of the Franklin School of Buffalo will fill the chair. Prof. Pierre de Peyster Ricketts. for iwenty-nine years connected with the department of analytical chemistry and assaying, tendered his resignation on account of ill-health.

# GEN. GREELY DENIES IT ALL.

Explains to Secretary Root His Address Before the Worcester Board of Trade.

WASHINGTON, May 7 - Gen. A. W. Greely Chief of the Signal Corps of the Army, this afternoon called upon the Secretary of War and volunteered an explanation of his address and volunteered an explanation of his address, before the Worcester Board of Trade a short time ago. It was represented that Gen. Greely had severely criticised the present rullitary system. Gen Greely said that he had not made the remarks attributed to him. He explained what he did vay and made an absolute disciance of having charged the Quartermaster's Department and the Subsistence Department with incompetency, or that he had said that he had known of one soldier going ten days without food. Gen. Greely's explanation das precepted by Secretary Root, which closed the in ascepted by Secretary Root, which closed the in as outfood. Gen Greely's explanation has peccepted by Secretary Root, which closed the in a-

# Sixty-six Years of Work Among the Poor

There will be an exhibition of manual training work at the rooms of the American Female Guardian Society and Home for the Friendless 29 East Twenty-minth street, to-morrow and Thursday from 10 until 5 o'clock. The work was done in the twelve industrial schools maintained by the society, and comprises shore-baskets and mats, chairs neatly caned, whittled articles, dresses and all kinds of garments, and display of bread, biscoit, meats, plain salars, puddings and pies—all made by children under 15 years of age.

15 years of age

Exercises commemorating the society's sixty-six years of work will be held in the home chapel on Wednesday at 11 o'clock, when reports will be read and an address made by Mrs. J. H. Knowles, and at 2 o'clock there will be singing, recitations, kindergarten exercises and work by the cooking class, while the school exhibits will be open to the public still another day, Thursday.

Another Shipload of Porto Rico Sugar. The third deeply laden steamship from Porte Rico since the settlement of the tariff question between Uncle Sam and his tropical little isl-

and arrived yesterday. She is the Arkadia of the New York, and Porto Rico Line, and she the New York and Porto Rico Line, and she brought enough sugar to sweeten the coffee of the residents of all our boroughs for a week or so. The Arkadia touched at most of the important ports of Porto Rico. From the wareshouses of Ponce she took 3,918 bags and 1,846 bags; from Fijardo, 185 hogsheads and 1,466 bags; from San Juan, 2,035 bags, and from Aguadila, 1,138 bags. Her entire cargo consisted of about 1,357 tons. And there is much more to come.

Islands of Cebu and Leyte Connected by Cable. WASHINGTON, May 7 Gen. A. W. Greely, Chief of the Signal Corps, has received a cablegram from Col. Allen at Manila saying that the gram from Col. Allen at Manila saying that the Signal Corps has succeeded in laying the cable line connecting the islands of Cebu and Levie in the southern part of the archipelago. Levie is an island immediately south of Sanmar and north of Mindanao Cebu is to the west of Leyte. Both Islands are large producers of hemp. The Signal Corps has also completed the construction of a telegraph line northward from Manila to Aparri, on the extreme northern coast of Lazon. During Spanish occupancy of the Philippines this land line existed, but was destroyed by the insurgents.

Winners of Teachers' College Fellowships. The faculty of Teachers' College of Columbia niversity made awards yesterday of the five

destroyed by the insurgents.

vacant fellowships of the academic year vacant fellowships of the academic year of 1900-01. Four of these were in pedagogy and one in manual training. Each carries with it a stipend of \$5.00 and the following men were the five chosen out of thirty one applications. Frank P. Bachman of Valley City, N. D.: Edwin C. Browne of Seymour, Conn. Rufus C. Bentley of Rafael, Cal. John W. Hall of Greeley, Col. In manual training: C. L. MacMurray of Chicago.

The Shah Decorates Consul-General Bowen. WASHINGTON, May 7 The State Department would object to having petures making by the parties.

White talking about the rights of visitors it may be proper to say a word about the regulations which prevent any woman from ever occupying a seat in city Hall Park. The ordinance which prohibits them should be repealed. Its present absolute enforcement may be a fine exhibition of municipal discipline, but otherwise there is little in it for any one to be proud of the little of the first class. It will be necessary for Mr. Bowen to secure the authority of Congress to accept the decortion.